

Education & Development

Conference Spotlights Family Violence

Family violence experts will gather in Anaheim May 16-17 to discuss the impact of domestic violence on children and other issues affecting families in the courts.

The annual Family Violence and the Courts conference will bring together judges, commissioners, family court services staffs, domestic violence victim advocates, law enforcement and probation officers, social services staffs, and others who work on family violence coordinating councils. In counties throughout the state, these interdisciplinary teams meet regularly to share information and coordinate their efforts to respond effectively to domestic violence. The councils will have an opportunity to meet during the conference to plan future activities and share information.

The conference features Edward W. Gondolf, Ed.D., MPH, in a half-day intensive plenary discussion of batterer intervention programs and practical applications. Dr. Gondolf is associate director of research for the Mid-Atlantic Addiction Training Institute, where he conducts research on the responses of courts, mental health practitioners, alcohol treatment clinicians, and batterer treatment programs to domestic violence.

Ernestine Gray, Chief Judge of the Orleans Parish Juvenile Court in New Orleans and president of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, will also address conference participants. She and her co-presenter, Ruby White, a nationally renowned speaker on issues relating to children and the court system, will discuss domestic violence as it relates to the nation's youth.

In addition to the plenary sessions, the conference will feature discussions of family violence issues by experts from the legal, social work, law enforcement, and related fields as well

as workshops that showcase model programs around the state. Sessions will cover topics such as domestic violence courts, court and community collaboration, batterer intervention, the impact of domestic violence on parenting, teen dating violence, new legislation and case law, and immigration issues.

For more information, contact Tamara Abrams, Center for Families, Children & the Courts, 415-865-7712; e-mail: tamara.abrams@jud.ca.gov.

RESOURCES

Annual Report Wired for 2002

Both the printed and online versions of the Judicial Council's 2002 *Annual Report* provide useful summaries of court workload trends and priorities, but only the online version offers readers instant access to a virtual library of information about the state court system.

Published annually in conjunction with the Chief Justice's State of the Judiciary Address (which occurred this year on March 12), the annual report guides readers through the resources on the California Courts Web site. For the first time, the report contains numerous links to other reports, studies, fact sheets, news releases, and online resources for detailed information on particular topics. The links are live in the online version and are represented by URLs in the printed version.

The familiar printed version of the report utilizes the design of the council's strategic and operational plans. Together the three documents convey the priorities, progress, and current achievements of the state judicial branch.

A companion volume to the annual report is scheduled for publication in May. The 2002

Court Statistics Report will provide detailed statistical data for each of the state's 58 counties.

For more information or copies of the annual report, contact the California Courts Info-line at 800-900-5980 or visit the California Courts Web site at www.courtinfo.ca.gov/reference.

California Courts Launch Online Press Center

In February the Administrative Office of the Courts launched its online Press Center, providing the news media with quick and easy access to information on the California judicial system. The Press Center is on the California Courts Web site at www.courtinfo.ca.gov/presscenter.

Designed to further the Judicial Council's goal of improving access to the courts, the Press Center has a variety of information for legal affairs reporters and provides easy public access to other online sources. It will be updated regularly. The Press Center provides:

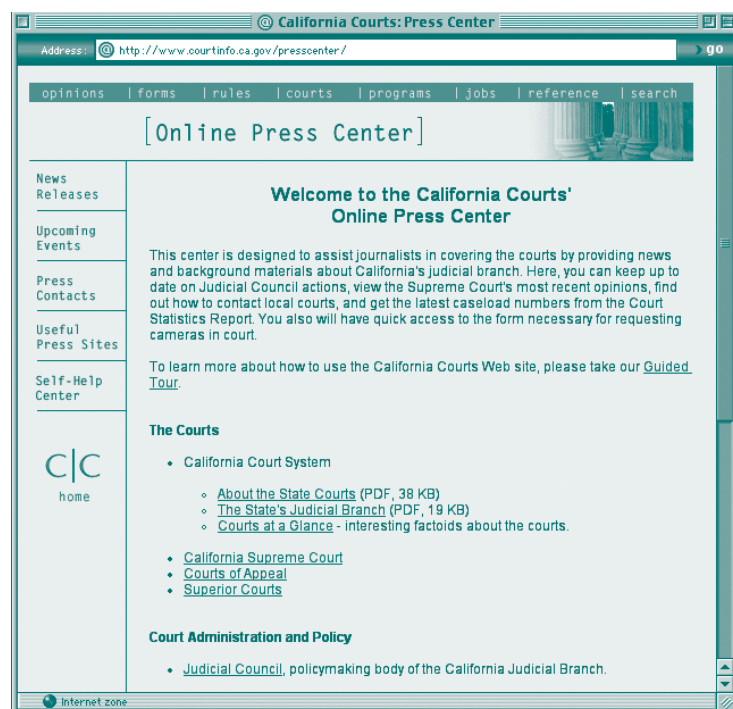
- Information on the structure and function of California courts and judicial branch agencies, including the Judicial Council, the Commission on Judicial Performance, the Commission on Judicial Appointments, and the Habeas Corpus Resource Center;
- Links to regular news updates about the Judicial Council, the Supreme Court, and the Commission on Judicial Appointments;
- Direct links to the California Supreme Court's opinions, case information, upcoming filings, calendars, and minutes; and
- A calendar of upcoming events, court press contacts, information on cameras in court, and Web sites of interest to the news media.

For more information, contact Sherri Eng, Web Editor for the California Courts Web site, 415-865-7544; e-mail: sherri.eng@jud.ca.gov, or Lynn Holton, Public Information Officer, 415-865-7726; e-mail: lynn.holton@jud.ca.gov.

New Orientation Video for Juror Appreciation Week

A newly released juror orientation videotape will equip California's courts to observe Juror Appreciation Week (May 13-17, 2002) in a new way this year.

The 16-minute video, titled "Ideals Made Real," was previewed at the Jury Education and Management Forum last fall and elicited an overwhelmingly positive response from presiding judges and court executives at the California Judicial Administration Conference in January. Developed by the Judicial Coun-



cil's Task Force on Jury System Improvements in response to numerous requests from court executives and jury managers, the video provides an overview of the juror experience, including interviews with former jurors. It was designed especially for viewing in jury assembly rooms.

The video will be distributed to the courts in late April with other educational materials (such as a companion booklet, postcards, and pens) for use during Juror Appreciation Week. It can also be sent to local government cable television channels, statewide civics groups, and high schools upon request.

"We are delighted with the early response to the video from jury managers—the people who know the challenges of juror orientation best," says Judge Dallas Holmes, Superior Court of Riverside County, who chairs the task force. "We encourage every court to use the video to convey to jurors how essential their services are to our democracy and system of justice."

For more information about the juror orientation video, contact Kim Taylor in the AOC's Center for Court Research, Innovation, and Planning, 415-865-7588; e-mail: kim.taylor@jud.ca.gov. For information about communications programs to support the video, contact Mark Pothier in the AOC's Office of Communications, 415-865-7448; e-mail: mark.pothier@jud.ca.gov. ■

2002 Annual Report

Improving Justice: The Business of the Courts

Judicial Council of California
Administrative Office of the Courts

Help Yourself

More than 100,000 users visited the California Courts Online Self-Help Center in January. Located at www.courtinfo.ca.gov/self-help, the site offers legal information and guidance on topics ranging from family law, traffic, and landlord-tenant matters to wills and name changes—as well as downloadable forms for many procedures.

Informational materials promoting the Web site, including posters, site maps, and postcards, can be obtained by e-mailing pubinfo@jud.ca.gov or by calling the AOC's Publications Hotline at 800-900-5980. Graphic files for the poster and site maps can also be downloaded from the Web site's "pressroom."

www.courtinfo.ca.gov

NEWS FROM THE CALIFORNIA COURTS WEB SITE

Both the California Courts public Web site and Serranus, the courts' secure site, continually add new information to keep the public and courts informed of the latest judicial programs and resources. Recent additions include the following:

Supreme Court Cases Online

Supreme Court cases can now be found and viewed online through a search using the attorney name, party name, case caption, or case number. Go to <http://appellatecases.courtinfo.ca.gov>.

New Online Press Center

Geared to reporters covering the courts but also useful for the general public, the Press Center provides links to online resources on the California judicial system, including regular updates on the Supreme Court and the Judicial Council, media advisories, a list of court press contacts, and a calendar of upcoming events. Visit the Press Center at www.courtinfo.ca.gov/presscenter.

Judicial Council Facts

Learn about the council's history and get a rundown of all the advisory committees and task forces in the Judicial Council *Profile*, by logging on to www.courtinfo.ca.gov/courtadmin/jc/documents/profilejc.pdf.

Who Does What at the AOC?

The Administrative Office of the Courts' Subject Matter Referral List is a regularly updated directory of direct phone numbers of agency staff, organized by subject area. Find the list on the PINetwork's Resources/Reference page at <http://serranus.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/pin/resources.htm>.

Court Briefs

Santa Clara Debuts Self-Service Center

In January the Superior Court of Santa Clara County joined the growing number of courts seeking to provide their communities with legal resources via self-service centers.

The center is in the county's downtown San Jose courthouse on Notre Dame Avenue, which also boasts two new courtrooms for child support hearings and a YMCA-coordinated waiting room for the children of litigants. The

Family Court Clinic and District Attorney's Family Support Court Unit have relocated to this address to make life easier for court users, who often require assistance from more than one of these programs.

Serving as a complement to the Family Court Clinic, Santa Clara's self-service center assists persons who seek information about representing themselves in any of the court divisions—civil, criminal, family, juvenile, probate, small claims, or traffic. The center provides free access to its self-service Web site, interpreter services in Spanish and Vietnamese, and on-site volunteer attorneys and court staff members who can help the public navigate the court system. The Web site, at www.scservice.org, includes a link to the California Courts online self-help center at www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp.

For more information, contact Debra F. Hodges, Superior Court of Santa Clara County, 408-299-3232, ext. 213.

Nominations Sought for National Awards

NCSC REHNQUIST AWARD

The National Center for State Courts (NCSC) will accept nominations in May and June for the William H. Rehnquist Award for Judicial Excellence.

The award is presented to a

state court judge who possesses the qualities of judicial excellence exemplified by William H. Rehnquist, Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. Nominees should have at least 15 years of experience on state courts of appellate, general, limited, or special jurisdiction and should have demonstrated the following qualities: integrity, fairness, open-mindedness, knowledge of the law, adherence to professional ethics, creativity, sound judgment, intellectual courage, and decisiveness. Nominees also should have promoted innovations of national significance in the management of state courts and provided leadership, at the national or state level, toward improving systems of justice.

In 1998 Superior Court of Los Angeles County Judge Veronica McBeth, then presiding judge of the Los Angeles Municipal Court, was honored with the Rehnquist Award for making a positive difference in her community through innovative and creative education programs that help citizens understand the legal process.

For more information, visit NCSC's Web site at www.ncsc.dni.us or contact Shelley Fischer, National Center for State Courts, P.O. Box 8798, Williamsburg, Virginia 23187-8798, 800-877-1233.

NACM AWARDS

The National Association for Court Management (NACM) is now accepting nominations for its Justice Achievement Award. The award recognizes courts and related organizations for meritorious projects and accomplishments that enhance the administration of justice.

For more information, visit www.nacmnet.org or contact Diana Jones, 316-271-6110.

The NACM is also accepting nominations for its Award of Merit. This, the association's most prestigious individual award, is presented annually to a person who has demonstrated leadership and excellence and whose work reflects NACM's purposes of increased proficiency of administration, modern management techniques, and support for the use of technological methods.

For more information, visit www.nacmnet.org or contact Dottie McDonald, Office of Court Administration, 512-463-1657; e-mail: dotmcdon@yahoo.com.

Judicial Election Survey

The Justice at Stake Campaign, a national nonpartisan partnership working to keep courts fair and impartial, sponsored a survey of state court judges and justices on the subject of judicial elections. Conducted by mail from November 2001 to January 2002, the survey polled 2,428 judges and justices nationwide. The following results for California were drawn from the national survey.

- Fifty-three percent of California judges and justices say that they are dissatisfied with the conduct and tone of judicial campaigns, compared to only 44 percent of state judges and justices nationally.
- Twenty-four percent of California judges and justices say that they are under pressure to raise money during election years.
- Eighty-seven percent are concerned that, "because voters have little information about judicial candidates, judges are often selected for reasons other than their qualifications."
- Eighty percent are concerned that "special interests are trying to use the courts to shape policy to their own ends."
- Seventy-eight percent of California judges and justices express concern about two systems of justice in the United States—"one for the rich and powerful and one for everyone else."
- Eighty-five percent strongly support a requirement "that all political advertisements in judicial elections clearly state who is paying for the ad," and 75 percent strongly support disclosure of campaign contributions.
- Fifty-three percent support a generic proposal to provide public financing for judicial elections.

For more information on the Justice at Stake Campaign or the survey, visit www.justiceatstake.org. ■

Two-Judge Family



On January 10, newly appointed Superior Court of Orange County Judge Carolyn Kirkwood took the oath of office, administered by her husband, Superior Court of Orange County Presiding Judge Frederick Paul Horn. Photo: Courtesy of the Superior Court of Orange County

Judge Jerold A. Krieger 1943-2002

After a long illness, Superior Court of Los Angeles County Judge Jerold A. Krieger died at his home in North Hollywood on February 14. He was 58.

"Jerold Krieger was an important contributor to the Judicial Council's Advisory Committee on Access and Fairness for the past five years," says Chief Justice Ronald M. George. "As chair of the panel's Sexual Orientation Fairness Subcommittee, he helped further the council's goal of improving access to justice for all Californians."

Appointed to the Los Angeles Municipal Court in 1983, Judge Krieger became a superior court judge in 1989 and was re-elected in 1994 and 2000. He previously was in private practice in Los Angeles from 1977 to 1983 and served as deputy attorney general for the California State Department of Justice from 1969 to 1977.

MILESTONES

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors presented Superior Court of Los Angeles County **Judge Stephen A. Marcus** with a scroll commending his dedication, vision, and leadership in improving public safety and the administration of justice. The action honors him for his leadership role in establishing the county's drug court program.

Judge Marcus was instrumental in creating the county's first drug court at its downtown

Criminal Courts Building and has served as a drug court judge for the last eight years. He has helped lead advocacy efforts in support of drug court legislation, has provided guidance on implementing Proposition 36, and has been an integral part of the expansion from 1 to 14 drug courts in Los Angeles County.

The Greater Fresno Area Chamber of Commerce honored Superior Court of Fresno County **Judge Robert H. Oliver** with its Leon S. Peters Award at a luncheon at the 2002 Valley Business Conference. The award goes to a businessperson who exemplifies dedication, commitment, and integrity in his or her

professional life and community involvements.

Prior to being elevated to the bench in 1995, Judge Oliver was a practicing attorney for 22 years and was a member of the State Bar Board of Governors and the JNE Commission. He has served on numerous boards and commissions, including the Foundation of the State Bar of California, the National Conference of Bar Foundations, the Fresno State Foundation, and the Fresno County Interagency Council for Children and Families.

At a recent bench-bar luncheon, the Los Angeles County Bar Association named Superior Court of Los Angeles County Clerk

Julie Besinaiz its Clerk of the Year. She is honored for her spirit of cooperation, patience, and civility in interacting with litigants, lawyers, and other court visitors.

Ms. Besinaiz has been a clerk in the Superior Court of Los Angeles County for 12 years.

The Roseville Chamber of Commerce honored Superior Court of Placer County **Commissioner Colleen M. Nichols** with its Athena Award. The award recognizes individuals who have demonstrated the highest level of professional excellence in their businesses or professions, have devoted time and energy to the community,

and have opened the door of opportunities for women.

Commissioner Nichols was appointed in 1994 and assigned to cases involving juvenile delinquency and abused children. Outside the court, she has assisted in developing a truancy program in local high schools, has devoted time to speaking at schools and civic organizations, and has collaborated with the Roseville Police Department and Galleria at Roseville to create a diversion program for young women arrested for shoplifting. ■

Getting in Touch

Administrative Office of the Courts
455 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102-3660

CALIFORNIA COURTS WEB SITE
www.courtinfo.ca.gov

The area code for the following is 415 except as indicated.

MAIN NUMBER
865-4200

GENERAL PUBLIC INFORMATION and QUESTIONS
865-7740, pubinfo@courtinfo.ca.gov

JOB HOTLINE—Administrative Office of the Courts
865-4369, www.courtinfo.ca.gov/jobs/

JOB HOTLINE—Habeas Corpus Resource Center
865-4314

MEDIA RELATIONS, MEDIA REQUESTS
865-7740

PUBLICATIONS—REQUESTS
865-7740, 800-900-5980, pubinfo@courtinfo.ca.gov

DIVISION/UNIT
CENTER FOR FAMILIES, CHILDREN & THE COURTS: 865-7739, 865-7569

EDUCATION DIVISION/CJER: 865-7745

EXECUTIVE OFFICE: 865-4240, 865-4241
Administrative Support Unit: 865-4211
Appellate and Trial Court Judicial Services: 865-4250
Northern/Central Regional Office: 916-323-3542
Southern Regional Office: 818-973-2709

EXECUTIVE OFFICE PROGRAMS DIVISION: 865-7530
Center for Court Research, Innovation, and Planning: 865-7616
Office of Communications: 865-7740
Presiding Judges and Court Executives Committees: 865-7612
Research and Planning: 865-7454
Secretariat and Conference Services: 865-7640

FINANCE DIVISION: 865-7960

HUMAN RESOURCES DIVISION: 865-4260

INFORMATION SERVICES DIVISION: 865-7400

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL: 865-7446

OFFICE OF GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS: 916-323-3121

BY SUBJECT

Access, fairness, and diversity: 865-7911, www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/access/

Accounting Services: 865-7948
Accounts Payable: 865-7924
Grants Accounting: 865-7947
Trial Court Fiscal Services: 865-7923

Appellate courts, services to
Appellate education: 865-7691, 865-4255
Appellate procedures: 865-7691
Appellate rules: 865-7691
Appointed appellate counsel: 865-4250

Audit Services: 865-7450
Budget: 865-7584
Budget Development: 916-323-0092
Budget, Data, and Technical Support: 865-7686
Trial Court Budget Support: 865-7536

Business Services: 865-7978
Contracts: 865-7989
Procurement: 865-7988

California Rules of Court: 865-7681, www.courtinfo.ca.gov/rules/

Cameras in court: 865-7653
Cameras in court form (requests from media): 865-7734, 865-7726

Comment, invitations to: www.courtinfo.ca.gov/invitationstocomment/

Court community outreach: 865-7709, www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/community/outreach.htm

Court facilities: 865-7971
Task Force on Court Facilities www2.courtinfo.ca.gov/facilities/

Court interpreters: 865-7599, www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/courtinterpreters/

Drug courts: 865-7607, www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/drugcourts/

Education
Court employees: 865-7745, jaicinfo@courtinfo.ca.gov
Judges
Programs: 865-7745, cjerinfo@courtinfo.ca.gov
Publications: 865-7805, cjerpubs@courtinfo.ca.gov
Videotapes: 865-7792, cjertapes@courtinfo.ca.gov

Ethics: 865-7799

Family and juvenile law
Center for Families, Children & the Courts: 865-7739, 865-7569, www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/childrenandthecourts/
Access grants: 865-7585
Child support: 865-7619
Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) program: 865-7704
Domestic violence: 865-7712
Mediation/evaluation/alternative dispute resolution: 865-7639

Research, evaluation, and statistics: 865-7567
Standards and programs: 865-7639
Training and education: 865-7659
Forms, Judicial Council: 865-7681, www.courtinfo.ca.gov/forms/
Grants: 865-7705
Judges
Appointments
All levels: Governor's Judicial Appointments Secretary, 916-324-7039
Appellate: Chair, Commission on Judicial Appointments, Supreme Court of California, 350 McAllister Street, San Francisco, CA 94102-3600

Complaints
Sitting: Commission on Judicial Performance, 557-1200
Retired: 865-7638

Judicial Council, services to
Secretariat and Conference Services: 865-7640, jcservices@courtinfo.ca.gov
Jury reform: 865-7589

Legal: 865-7446
Alternative dispute resolution: 865-7691
Civil procedure: 865-7665
Conservatorship: 865-7665
Criminal law and procedure: 865-7688
Delay reduction—civil: 865-7665
Economic litigation: 865-7669
Employment law: 865-7545
Evictions: 865-7669
Guardianships: 865-7665
Labor law: 865-7545
Landlord-tenant: 865-7665
Probate: 865-7665
Small claims: 865-7669

Standards of Judicial Administration: 865-7825

Strategic planning
Community-focused court planning: 865-7654, www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/community/court_planning.htm
Judicial Council strategic plan: 865-7709, [www.courtinfo.ca.gov/reference/1_annualreports.htm#Leading Justice](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/reference/1_annualreports.htm#Leading%20Justice)

Technology policy and planning: 865-7431
Three-strikes law: 865-7650


Trial courts, services to
Change of venue: 865-7638
Coordination of civil actions: 865-7630
Court administration procedures (court holidays, fax filing, forms, rules): 865-7685
Grant coordination: 865-7705
Human resources: 865-4260
Judicial assignments: 865-7638
Judicial benefits: 865-4323
Local rules: 865-7669
Traffic: 865-7611
Trial court budget support (AB 233): 865-7553
Unification (SCA 4): 865-7650
Vexatious litigants: 865-7615

Photo: William A. Porter

Spread the News

Tell *Court News* about innovative programs and services at your court so that we can share your experience with your colleagues.

Send the information via mail to Blaine Corren, *Court News*, Administrative Office of the Courts, 455 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94102-3660, phone: 415-865-7449, fax: 415-865-4334, or e-mail: blaine.corren@jud.ca.gov.



Calendar

CONFERENCES

APR 18–19

Statewide Conference on Eliminating Racial and Ethnic Bias in the Courts, San Francisco

APR 26–28

California Judges Association Midyear Conference, Palm Springs

MAY 16–17

Family Violence and the Courts, Anaheim

JUN 9–21

Bernard E. Witkin Judicial College, Berkeley

JUDICIAL COUNCIL MEETINGS

All Judicial Council business meetings will be held at the Administrative Office of the Courts in San Francisco unless otherwise noted.

APR 19

JUL 19

- Contact: Secretariat and Conference Services, 415-865-7640; e-mail: jcservices@courtinfo.ca.gov. Judicial Council meeting information is also posted on the California Courts Web site at www.courtinfo.ca.gov/courtadmin/jc/.

JUDICIAL EDUCATION

Programs

APR 11–12

Advanced Legal Writing and Research, San Francisco

APR 11–13

Juvenile Law Institute, Seaside

APR 14–19

Continuing Judicial Studies Program, Spring Session, San Francisco

APR 18

Qualifying Ethics Program, Los Angeles

APR 18–19

Computer Class, San Francisco

APR 24–26

Appellate Justices Institute, Palm Springs

APR 29

Qualifying Ethics Program, San Francisco

MAY 9–10

Computer Class, Culver City

MAY 9–11

Cow County Judges Institute, Sonoma

MAY 22

Qualifying Ethics Program, Pasadena

Note: Computer class students must possess a Serranus identification number to participate.

- Contact: Center for Judicial Education and Research (CJER), 415-865-7753.

Orientation

Orientation programs for new trial court judges, commissioners, and referees are scheduled as follows:

APR 15–19

MAY 13–17

Note: Orientation sessions with insufficient enrollment will be canceled.

- Contact: CJER, 415-865-7745.

ADMINISTRATIVE EDUCATION

APR 25–26

Appellate Staff Continuing Studies Program, San Diego

MAY 6–10

Mid-Level Management Conference, Universal City

MAY 29–31

Training Coordinators Conference, San Francisco

- Contact: Administrative Education, 415-865-7745.

COURT NEWS

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